

June 22, 2021

TO: mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov, Comm.Rubio@portlandoregon.gov,
CommissionerRyanOffice@portlandoregon.gov, joann@portlandoregon.gov,
MappsOffice@portlandoregon.gov, Cc: cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov

PLEASE VOTE NO ON THE SOUTH BLOCKS MASTER PLAN !!!

Green Portland, it's climate change and hot outside and you're considering taking away our shade trees?!!! In the only green park in all of downtown?!!! This is the only shaded area where people are able to enjoy walking and bench sitting and all the revitalizing benefits of a neighborhood park. For all downtowners, this is our only yard! The plan advocates removing 25% on some and all trees on other blocks, as well as replacing some with evergreens. But these deciduous trees are healthy and will continue to thrive with appropriate maintenance. They not only provide shade but also absorb carbon dioxide.

I wonder if you've ever heard tour guides out on a summer's day, telling visitors how a vaccine was developed to save the elms before the dutch elm outbreak could cross the mountains. There are 22 varieties of deciduous trees here. And indeed a very cathedral, Parisian atmosphere. **What a treasure!** As a resident, I'm all for modernization. But I cannot think of any reason why that should require removing the environmental benefits and beauty of healthy deciduous trees. Or shrink the size of the park space. Or take away access to our homes and performance spaces.

I have lived on both sides of the Park blocks. It's the only neighborhood where I've wanted to live in Portland. It's another treasure - and a neighborhood which I would think would be prized by the city because of its extraordinary **inclusion**. All economic classes and all ages live here together, families and singles, and rich and poor. The people here already help the public business by regularly cleaning up the sidewalks, caring for the plants, and providing local security. This is our one and only yard and refuge and gathering place.

There should be **no loss of trees** due to construction. **Or shrinking the boundary. Or introducing hardscape** into the park - which is not a parkway. There are already available spaces for gatherings and events. And two wide-open hard-surface plazas within 6 blocks. And another in between the performing centers where concerts are held

during the summer. And that's just in the immediate vicinity. And dedicated bike lanes just a block away.

There should be **no loss of street access**. Citizens expect that family and visitors are able to come to our "homes" - as well as the myriad deliveries, services and maintenance activity - which happens today on already narrow streets. We need access to our living spaces. And to the cultural institutions that are located here. How will school buses bring children - from all over the city - to the Portland Art Museum? And performances at the Schnitzer et al? I've been a chaperone on the school buses and they are already challenged with the narrow streets. How will OBT dancers have access to the church where they manage costumes for their performances at the Newmark? How will the city offer cultural inclusivity if physical access is constrained? Or attract downtown residents?

You have done a great job with the bike lanes downtown. But **not everyone can ride a bike**. Or use public transportation. We don't want to be run down by bicycle traffic in this space, It seems common sense that all moving wheels should be together on the hard street pavement, and footed humans and creatures in the park. When other cities have incorporated a walk-and-bike hybrid, they have done so where there is space - like along the river - but not by breaking up a residential area. And, again, there are **already dedicated bike lanes**.

It doesn't seem like this plan considers **how this neighborhood lives and works**. What about all the walkers? And the young and elderly? And all the people who are challenged physically or economically? And who - for all kinds of legitimate reasons - are not bicycle users? Why are we spending more money on this when there is already bicycle access? Why are we spending more money when the commitment to affordable housing is lagging?

When I migrated here to be with my family, **I chose this neighborhood. For the magnificent elms. For the cultural proximity. For the wonderful walkable downtown**. I have suffered loss and disability and healed in the Park blocks. I have listened to the chorus of children outside in the park enjoying their play while I was laid up inside. I learned to walk again on these blocks. The children in my family have grown up with the museums and performances and outside play in the Park blocks. We all have personal stories. This is our home.

Please vote NO on breaking up, or "shaking up" (as one Caucasian male bicyclist proposed), our neighborhood blocks. Please vote no on removing our trees! Please gather more information before moving forward. Please separate tree succession and the green loop from the Master Plan. **Please welcome modernization without destroying the benefits we cherish**.

Thank you,
Alice Lloyd



Alice Lloyd
1221 SW 10th Ave Unit 513
Portland, OR 97205

PORTLAND OR 972

22 JUN 2021 PM 2 L



Council Clerk
1221 SW 4th Ave., Room 130
Portland, OR 97204

97204-190021

